

# **Downtown Network Board**

## **Meeting Notes**

### **October 19, 2016**

#### **WHO:**

Present: Co-Chair Oscar Verest, Paul Cavalli, Dave Jackson, Cindy Lampley, Tom Peaco, Leamon Scott, Matt Storin, Don White

Absent: Robin McIntosh, Tia Anderson, Meg Quijano

Staff: Karen Brace, Pat Finnigan

#### **MEETING PURPOSE:**

*To build collaboration utilizing community assets to strengthen and energize Camden's downtown.*

#### **KEY THINGS DISCUSSED:**

The notes of September 21, 2016 were accepted as presented.

- The group approved of the format with action steps and decisions made.

#### **Steering Committee**

- Purpose - to drive momentum, prepare agendas, and provide direction. Will pre-plan the work of the DNB to bring it to the full board.
- Steering Committee to consist of Co-Chairs, staff and Team Chairs or liaisons as needed for upcoming reports.

#### **Co-Chair nomination**

- Paul Cavalli said he would accept the position of Co-Chair. There was a motion (Dave Jackson) and second (Matt Storin) to nominate Paul Cavalli as Downtown Network Board Co-Chair to serve alongside Oscar Verest. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **Downtown Economic Vitality Team**

Leamon Scott updated the Board on the work of the "DEV" Team, comprised of community volunteers, town staff and members of the Camden Area Business Group.

- The DEVT is partnering with the Retail Association of Maine to bring the "Shop Second Saturday" (S2S) program to Camden. The program will kick off during Christmas By the Sea. The Retail Association will use funds from a Maine Office of Tourism marketing grant (about \$6500) to fund digital media advertising to promote the Christmas By the Sea event to Boston and Portsmouth markets.
- S2S in Camden will be launched in conjunction with the Business Group and the Chamber. The CABG Chair and Vice Chair are involved in recruiting downtown businesses to participate.
- S2S begins in January with themes each month, from Restaurant Week to a B&B Open House, Youth Arts and a potential June Jazz Festival.

## **Work Plan of the DNB**

The board accepted a Work Plan at its previous meeting:

- A. Choosing a new name for the DNB
- B. Public Landing improvements and vision
- C. Developing a Communications Plan to inform the stakeholders and the community about the work of the DNB, and to build support for its projects
- D. Involvement in and advocacy for local government issues that will enhance or hinder the Downtown's vitality

A Roundtable discussion of a *Vision for the Public Landing* was the primary topic of the meeting.

- Pat outlined the community process that had taken place previously, with community meetings held throughout the spring of 2012 led by a team of architects and engineers. She noted that along with the DNB, the Select Board and the Harbor Committee have also identified the Public Landing as a priority.
- The group worked to envision the landing as it would be if money or other constraints were not factors. Thoughts shared by members were that the landing would provide:
  - A gathering space for visitors and residents
  - More pedestrian-friendly access to the harbor, with less parking
  - Functional with beautified parking – not another park
  - Access for fishermen, schooners, passengers and visiting boats
  - Outside seating for food trucks, music, events, more of a focal point
  - Safer – keep big trucks up on Main Street, could eliminate 2-way traffic up the hill by using the alley.
- Parking alternatives were discussed. Ideas were:
  - Free off-site parking with shuttle or trolley service (Downtown parking fees pay for shuttle)
  - Sierra Peaks Tibbetts lot for lease
  - Parking garage
  - Use of Congregational Church lot

## **Local Government Issues**

DNB to serve as sounding board, bringing in feedback from community like a live suggestion box, and advocating when needed on important issues.

Examples:

- Parking signage issues with Knox Mill
- Waterfall

## **DECISIONS MADE:**

- Steering Committee to be made up of DNB Co-Chairs, and attended by Team Chairs or liaisons as needed for upcoming agenda.
- Paul Cavalli elected unanimously to serve as DNB Co-Chair.
- To table the discussion of a new name

- To consider specific elements at the next meeting that we envision as part of the landing.
- To serve as a “live suggestion box” for public input, and advocacy.

**ACTIONS**

<b>WHAT</b>	<b>WHO</b>	<b>WHEN</b>
1. Steering Committee meeting	Staff will set up	According to Chairs’ schedules
2. Inform DNB of local government issues	Steering Committee	At each meeting of the Board
3. Collect ideas potential new names for DNB	Staff	
4. Develop a process for choosing a new name	Steering Committee	During a subsequent Steering Committee meeting
5. Consider specific elements that should be included in the public landing re-design	DNB members	Prior to 11/16 meeting
6. Prepare report for DNB	Communications Team	Prior to 11/16 meeting